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KYRGYZSTAN

SUCCESS STORY

USAID Sees Major Achievement in the Passport Simplification Process

Simplified passport procedures are more efficient, less expensive

The State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic has reduced the list of documents required for a national passport, marking an important milestone USAID's efforts to simplify the issuance of passports in Kyrgyzstan.



Photo: KPSP

KPSP holds a policy seminar for key stakeholders on Kyrgyz Passport issues.

The USAID assistance helped create a public platform for all stakeholders to share opinions and discuss potential solutions to be included in the draft law "On the Passport of a Citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic".

The previous law prescribed a complex, expensive, and time-consuming process for acquiring a Kyrgyz passport. Kyrgyz citizens spent a significant amount of time gathering up to 13 mandatory supporting documents and then waited in slow moving lines to apply for and receive passports. Seeing an opportunity to alleviate the situation the USAID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program engaged the relevant state bodies as well as civil society on simplification of registration and passport

issuance and receipt procedures through organizing a public forum, digital video conferences, and policy seminars designed to draw the attention of key players to the problems associated with the passport system in Kyrgyzstan.

The USAID-facilitated dialogue among stakeholders interested in passport issuance reform has led to more simplified procedures. For the future, to obtain a national passport, a person will have to complete an application, provide a certificate of residence and a photograph, and pay the application fee. Though the functionality of the pre-existing residence permit cannot be eliminated until a credible alternative is established, the State Registration Service will create a unified database of all citizens, which will document the residency of each person. Thereafter, the need for a residence permit will no longer be necessary. This simplification will allow citizens to more easily access public services and also make money transfers more transparent. Additional suggestions made by stakeholders will be further incorporated into the final version of the companion law "On the Passport of a Citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic" currently being considered by the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament).